Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 June 2015

[*on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2015/26)*]

2015/4. Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on 13 December 2006,[3] as a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

Recalling earlier operational frameworks, such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[4] and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[5]

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, held on 23 September 2013,[6] which advanced the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development, and acknowledging the value of their contributions to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[4] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[5] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 68/3.

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Noting the reference to persons with disabilities in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[7] which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered in the intergovernmental negotiation process,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[8] in which the consideration of the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue across the successor set of goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda was recommended,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet",[9] which also integrated a disability perspective,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014,[10] by which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities,

Recalling the expiry of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development on 31 December 2014 and the decision of the Commission to consider the possibility of establishing another monitoring mechanism, with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in social development,

Welcoming the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and efforts to create synergies within existing United Nations mechanisms,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development and promoting the equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming the issue of disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities into disaster risk reduction activities, and recognizing the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the

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[7] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[8] A/68/202 and Corr.1.

[9] A/69/700.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities,

Recalling the request to the President of the General Assembly to organize, during the seventieth session of the Assembly, a panel discussion to follow up on the status and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities and in relation to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as being aware of the importance of building on this panel discussion,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development in the completion of his mandate, and takes note of his report[11] and the expiry of the mandate;

2. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities,[10] and invites her to closely cooperate with the Commission for Social Development according to the development component of the mandate, including by making concrete recommendations on how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

3. *Decides* to hold, at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, a multi-stakeholder panel discussion, entitled "Implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", in order to further elaborate on how the existing mechanisms and entities within the United Nations system can contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability issues, to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and to consider the possibility and modalities of another monitoring mechanism;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion as well as urban planning, accessible community and housing development, take into account the needs, rights and potentials of and benefit to all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

5. *Encourages* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on disability and development by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[3] and by considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto,[12] as both human rights and development instruments;

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[11] See E/CN.5/2015/5.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

6. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation on an equal basis with others in the implementation of international development goals;

7. *Decides* to continue to give due consideration to the issue of disability and development, including within the framework of United Nations operational activities, in accordance with relevant mandates, in order to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels, including the participation, where appropriate, of United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and institutions and other relevant stakeholders, while ensuring coordination and avoiding any possible overlapping;

8. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations agencies and bodies, development agencies and international organizations, and encourages the private sector, to regard accessibility as both a means and a goal of inclusive and sustainable development, and therefore an essential investment that benefits all members of society, and, hence, to ensure that accessibility is an integral part of programmes and projects relating to the built environment, transportation and information and communications technologies;

9. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve disability data collection, analysis and monitoring for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, fully taking regional contexts into account, and to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and underlines the need for internationally comparable data and statistics disaggregated by sex and age, including information on disability;

11. *Underlines* the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development and implementation of the emerging post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-fifth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, integrating the Chair's summary of the discussions and the proposals made during the multi-stakeholder panel discussion held during the fifty-fourth session.

32nd plenary meeting
8 June 2015